FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost

October 29, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Miniature No. 10 Charles V. Stanford

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord!
People: My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God!
Leader: Happy are those who live in God's house, ever singing God's praise;
People: Happy are those whose strength are in you, Lord; let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #434
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples KINGSFOLD

1 Today we are all called to be
Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captives free,
Make plow-share out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first,
Our ease and comfort last.

2 God made the world and at its birth
Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth,
Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
We sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
That threatens all of life.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 Pray justice may come rolling down
As in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town
To cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
An earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for
A harmony of peace.

4 May we in service to our God
Act out the living word,
And walk the road the saints have trod
Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be
Disciples of the Lord.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in every generation you call forth prophets to proclaim your word; your Holy Spirit speaks through people of all ages, races, backgrounds, and identities. But we confess that we often fail to hear or recognize your voice when it comes. Open our eyes and ears, our minds and hearts, so that we may know your transforming word to us and respond to it with faith, courage, and hope.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 21:1-14 Judy Smullen

Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Think Different"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #357
O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee MARYTON

1 O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

4 In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION Jeff Csatari

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory God Be in My Head — John Rutter

Chancel Choir

God be in my head
And in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart
And in my thinking;
God be at mine end
And at my departing

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow — OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*SENDING HYMN #423

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun — DUKE STREET

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

4 Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blessed.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Grand Choeur No. 2 — Alfred Ho